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Manitoba R3E 3P6 (CA). GROLLA, Allen [CA/CA]; 1015 rue Arlington, Piece T2420, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3E 3P6 (CA).

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(74) Agent: ADE & COMPANY; 1700-360 Main Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 3Z3' (CA).

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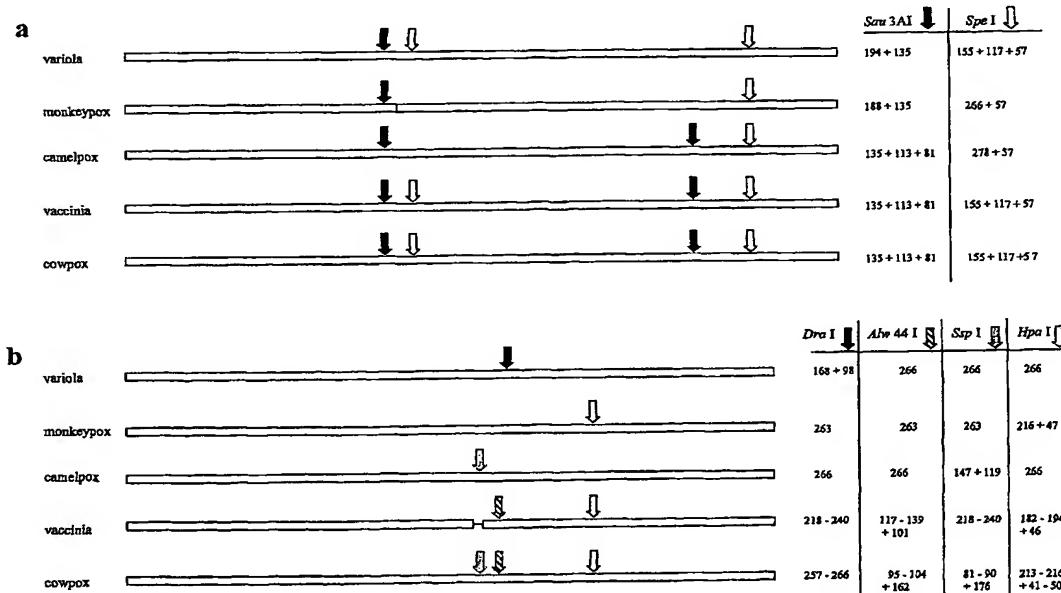
(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN IN RIGHT OF CANADA AS REPRESENTED BY THE MINISTER OF HEALTH [CA/CA]; 1015 rue Arlington Piece T2420, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3E 3P6 (CA).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): CZUB, Markus [CA/CA]; 1015 rue Arlington Piece T2420, Winnipeg,

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(54) Title: METHOD AND KIT FOR MOLECULAR IDENTIFICATION OF SMALLPOX



(57) Abstract: We have developed two new PCR based assays to detect Orthopoxvirus DNA which when tested under simulated clinical conditions, have proven to be very sensitive, rapid and robust. Importantly, we were able to construct artificial templates for use as positive controls in the RFLP analysis necessary to differentiate variola and monkeypox viruses from the Orthopoxvirus species that normally cause relatively insignificant disease in man. Our assays will provide a lab that has already undertaken the isolation of DNA from a patient sample in biocontainment, a sensitive and controlled assay for the detection and differentiation of human-tropic orthopox viruses.

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